

when depressed, causes the media on the inserted card to be acquired directly from the card as opposed to a scanned paper document. The scanner buttons relate to a consumer selected computer application wherein data will be sent upon depression of said button(s).

The image processing method as claimed in claims 1-8 describe the function of the transfer of data from an inserted media card in the inventive scanner's card reader slot as it relates to the control of the button on the scanner.

Claims 9-13 are not distinct inventions as they describe the image acquisition process of claims 1-8 first by determining that there is data on the card to be read, and then transmitting said data to the computer which was disclosed to be connected to the inventive scanner.

Claim 9 specifically describes the method of monitoring whether there exists data on the inserted card, and selecting at least one image data file therefrom to be transmitted from the scanner to the computer.

Claim 10 further comprises monitoring whether any of the scanner buttons have been pressed and selecting the appropriate consumer selected application to which the image data should be sent. Said scanner buttons and computer application interface are claimed and disclosed in claims 1-8.

Claim 11 details the option for the user to scan a paper document on the inventive scanner when there may be no card present in the card reader slot.

Claims 12 and 13 simply further illustrate how the consumer may select the applications to which the card (or paper) scanned images are sent.

Claims 14-16 were not subject to the Examiner's restriction requirements.

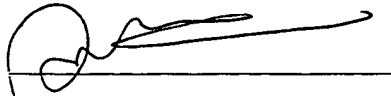
Claim 17 speaks to the process of launching the consumer selected application when a scanner button is depressed.

Claim 18 was not subject to the Examiner's restriction requirement.

Claim 19 addresses how the computer in conjunction with the scanner apparatus monitors whether any buttons have been depressed and describes the kernel driver functions related thereto.

All of the aforementioned claims have direct functional relationship with the inventive apparatus as in claims 1-8 and are indeed dependant upon the processes and methods disclosed in said claims. The apparatus will not function as envisioned by the inventors if the scanner buttons cannot be monitored, and the scanned media then directed to the user's selected associated applications. The entire nature of the inventive apparatus will be negatively affected should the Application not be allowed claims 9-13,

17 and 19. The Applicant agrees that claims 20-22 are considered distinct from the remaining claims, and thus cancels claims 20-22 only.



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